

News Release

June 25, 2012 9:00 a.m. (MST)

Contact: Laura McConnell, PIO

www.INCIWEB.ORG

Information office 307-212-4844*

*Staffed 8:00 a.m. – 8 p.m.



Successful Burning Operations Completed

Suppression activities on Sunday went well on the Russell's Camp Fire. Crews completed a burn outⁱ operation yesterday on the northeast corner of the fire. Firefighters burned off the dozer line on the northeast corner towards the west. Burning operations went well and crews monitored the area throughout the night. Engines from the structure group assisted with the burn and will continue to assist crews in Division L and N. Additional work was completed near the Silver Spruce and Meadow Creek areas. A hose layⁱⁱ was completed in Division L to the top of the ridge on the northwest side of the perimeter.

Weather today is expected to be favorable for suppression efforts. Winds are expected to die down later in the day, however early morning gusts of up to 30 miles per hour were experienced near the fire. An increased chance of thunderstorms is expected today, and a Red Flag Warning remains in place until midnight tonight. Tuesday's weather will be hotter, drier weather with strong wind gusts expected.

Fire crews continue to face tough conditions with hot, dry, windy weather. Tough terrain and steep conditions continue to challenge crews. Heat exhaustion and dehydration remains a concern.

Today's operations will include:

Division A (south/east): **Division D** (west): **Division F** (northwest): Crews will continue to hold and improve lines. With expected winds over the next few days, firefighters will focus on maintaining containment linesⁱⁱⁱ.

Division L: (northeast) Crews continue to work the northwest portion of the fire along the dozer line. Steep rocky terrain is presenting challenges to firefighters. Operations personnel continue to evaluate safe and effective ways to complete containment lines in this area.

Division N: Work will continue today on the northeast side of the fire perimeter. Engines from the structure group will be assisting crews in both this division and Division L. Reinforcing hand and dozer lines to withstand spotting and strong winds is planned.

Air Operations: Aviation resources are available to assist fire crews as needed.

Road closures are in place and closed to all recreation traffic. We ask that the public respect the need for the closures and find alternate routes of travel. Please be aware of heavy traffic related to the incident along Cold Springs Road. Road blocks will be in place on the road near the Converse County and Albany County line. County Road #62 (Little Medicine Road), and County Road#24 (Cold Springs Road). Closures in place near the bottom of Cold Springs Road and a portion of the Box Elder Road near Breakneck Hill.

Evacuations:

- There is no serious threat to the Fetterman Road. Residents living along this area can return to their homes/cabins. If conditions were to change voluntary evacuations will be reinstated.
- Volunteer evacuations are still in place for homes/cabins along Meadow Creek Road, and Cold Springs Road south of Meadow Creek Road. Residents who choose to evacuate their homes are asked to contact the Converse County Sheriff's Office to advise them.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 17th, 2012

Containment: 25%

Cause: Under investigation/Possible Lightning

Acreage: 5,393

Personnel: 622

Crews: 16

Cooperating Agencies: Converse County, USFS, State of Wyoming

Aviation: (4) Type 1, (1) Type 2 & (2) Type 3 Helicopters

Engines: 30

Dozers: 2

Water Tenders: 4

Injuries: 2 (minor heat related, knee injury)

Structures destroyed: 0

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 20

Unit Identifiers: 138 (number of agencies/units assisting)

###

MEDIA NOTES:

Afternoon media releases will be done and posted to InciWeb as needed. Only morning releases will be sent via email. Both will be posted to InciWeb. Due to the increase of fire activity in the nation there has been an impact to the InciWeb site. If you experience difficulties the news releases will be posted at:

<http://tinyurl.com/NewsRussellsCampFire>.

Fire personnel will be available in front of Safeway in Douglas, Wyoming from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. starting today to answer questions in regards to current status of the fire.

Twitter: @RMIMT2_TeamB @MBRNFsTBNG @WyoStForestry

ⁱ Burn Out – Setting a fire inside a control line to consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the fire line. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>

ⁱⁱ Hose Lay – Arrangement of connected lengths of fire hose and accessories on the ground, beginning at the first pumping unit and ending at the point of water delivery. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>

ⁱⁱⁱ Containment Line - The status of a wildland fire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>